



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 967th FSC Plenary Meeting

(3 February 2021, via video teleconferencing)

(Agenda item 1, General Statements,

on the subject of “Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea”)

Madame Chairperson,

On behalf of the Delegation of Ukraine let me deliver a statement on the **subject of “Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea”**.

Ukraine is steadfast in its commitment to reach peaceful settlement of the conflict unleashed and sustained by Russia. We use every avenue to fulfil this goal.

Head of Office of the President of Ukraine Andriy Yermak took part in the meeting of political advisers to the N4 leaders in the format of a video conference, on 27 January 2021. During the meeting, the parties discussed steps that could intensify the peace process in Donbas and agreed to continue further consultations at subsequent meetings at the level of advisers.

Against this background, between the 25th and the 31st of January, **the armed formations of the Russian Federation violated the ceasefire regime 44 times** by shelling the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine from diverse weapons, including the Minsk-proscribed 82mm and 120mm mortars near Pavlopil, Vodiane and Pisky, as well as with the use of sniper fire. On the 29th of January 2021 Russian fighters dropped VOG-17 shells from a UAV on the Ukrainian positions near Vodiane. **As a result of these armed provocations, 6 Ukrainian servicemen were wounded in action.**

Slide 1-2, On the 31st of January 2021 the Russian armed formations shelled Ukrainian positions from the direction of the temporarily occupied Yakovlivka (*coordinates: 48°06'02,07"N; 37°50'28,19"E*) in the direction of the temporarily occupied Avdiivka (*coordinates: 48°06'52,24"N; 37°45'05,80"E*) with the use of light portable rocket system Grad-P. The Ukrainian side obtained photographic

evidence of the site of explosion and a tail assembly fragment of the 122.4mm Grad-P missile. Such actions reflect further disregard and violation of Russia and its forces in Donbas of the TCG decision of 22 July 2020 that prohibits shelling, including with the use of sniper fire, and the Minsk agreements stipulating the withdrawal of heavy weapons on equal distances in order to establish a security zone of 50km at minimum between the sides for the artillery systems of 100mm and those of a higher calibre.

In addition to constant impediment of the SMM freedom of movement, interference and targeting of its assets, the **Russian forces continued accumulating large amounts of weapons in the vicinity of the contact line** in the temporarily occupied areas of Donbas in violation of withdrawal lines set out by the Minsk agreements.

(Slide 3) In violation of the provision a. of the TCG agreement of 22 July 2020 that prohibits the conduct of offensive and subversive activities, the armed formations of the Russian Federation regularly change the positioning of the troops, including advancement of their positions towards the Armed Forces of Ukraine. These actions are considered as provocative and offensive in nature. It is of particular concern that they are also taking place in the disengagement areas.

The analyses of dynamics in the transformation of landscape of the area of **disengagement of forces and hardware in Zolote**, which is confirmed by control data, reveals concealed development of new positions and reinforcement of the existing ones by the Russian armed formations. These forbidden activities began after the completion of the disengagement process.

We draw your attention that at the time of the completion of the disengagement of forces and hardware in Zolote there were only random and lightly equipped in engineering terms positions.

Approximately starting from July 2020, taking advantage of the defensive characteristics of the area, the Russian armed formations intensified forbidden engineering and fortification works on reinforcement of existing positions within the Zolote disengagement area. The Ukrainian side identified the following changes **(Slide 4)**:

- at a distance of 450m to the north of its north-western corner (coordinates 48°39'27.34"N, 38°29'22.33"E) positions, including covered trenches and dugout were equipped.
- engineering works are underway on a new position (48°39'30,93"N, 38°29'36,52"E).
- at a distance of 270m to the north from the south-western corner of Zolote disengagement area, there are stocks of timber, presumably intended for equipping dugouts and cover trenches (48°39'21,53"N, 38°29'21,19"E).

We can't exclude that these positions might be significantly expanded and combined into a platoon strongpoint.

The works on development of the positions of a group in an area 250m to the north of the center of southern border of Zolote ($47^{\circ}39'27.50''\text{N}$, $38^{\circ}31'00.53''\text{E}$) were observed.

Moreover, the SMM repeatedly confirmed **the presence of the Russian armed formations in the disengagement area in Zolote** and approximately 350m north of its southern edge in the daily reports (inter alia, reports of 10.26.2020; reports from 20.12.2020 through 10.01.2021).

We would like to draw your attention to the following cases of development of positions by the Russian armed formations in the Zolote disengagement area and in its vicinity, observed by the Ukrainian side.

Slide 5, On the 12th of January 2021, the development of new positions and reinforcement of existing ones in the temporarily occupied area in Zolote (coordinates $48^{\circ}40'57.70''\text{N}$, $38^{\circ}33'33.21''\text{E}$ and **Slide 6**, $48^{\circ}41'14.29''\text{N}$, $38^{\circ}35'03.18''\text{E}$).

Slide 7, On the 20th of January 2021, the development of a new position ($48^{\circ}40'46,24''\text{N}$, $38^{\circ}33'29,37''\text{E}$) at a distance of 1.2km from the disengagement area was observed.

Slide 8, On the following slides you may find the information on the ongoing violations by the Russian armed formations of the TCG Framework decision on disengagement of forces and hardware which prohibits their presence in **the Petrivske disengagement area**.

Slide 9, The dynamics of the landscape transformation in the Petrivske disengagement area also points out to concealed development of new positions and reinforcement of the existing ones by the Russian armed formations. These forbidden activities began after the completion of the disengagement process.

Taking advantage of the defensive characteristics of the area, the Russian armed formations carry out engineering and fortification works. The Ukrainian side has revealed new cases of reinforcement of existing positions in the disengagement area concerned.

Development of new positions and reinforcement of the existing ones by the Russian armed formations were observed by the Ukrainian side near the temporarily occupied residential area of Holubivske.

Slide 10, On the 12th of January 2021, the development of new position ($48^{\circ}41'12,31''\text{N}$, $38^{\circ}35'54,68''\text{E}$).

Slides 11 - 17, On the 14th, the 16th, the 22nd, the 23rd, the 27th, the 30th and the 31st of January 2021, development of new positions and reinforcement of existing ones north-west of the area of Holubivske settlement were observed (coordinates $48^{\circ}41'54,74''\text{N}$, $38^{\circ}36'36,33''\text{E}$ and $48^{\circ}41'55,10''\text{N}$, $38^{\circ}36'42,27''\text{E}$, $48^{\circ}41'54,74''\text{N}$, $38^{\circ}36'36,33''\text{E}$, $48^{\circ}41'54,74''\text{N}$, $38^{\circ}36'36,33''\text{E}$, $48^{\circ}41'54,74''\text{N}$, $38^{\circ}36'36,33''\text{E}$, $48^{\circ}42'18,95''\text{N}$, $38^{\circ}37'16,96''\text{E}$, $48^{\circ}41'55,67''\text{N}$, $38^{\circ}36'42,80''\text{E}$, $48^{\circ}41'44,46''\text{N}$, $38^{\circ}36'51,64''\text{E}$);

Moreover, on the following slides you may see these forbidden activities of the

Russian armed formations in **other temporarily occupied areas of Donbas, revealed by the Ukrainian side.**

Slide 18, On the 25th of January 2021, engineering works to develop new positions near the Donetsk airport (coordinates 48°04'16,06"N, 37°41'59,90"E) and the residential area Spartak (48°04'54,75"N, 37°45'10,05"E) were observed.

Slide 19, On the 27th of January 2021, engineering works with the use of special equipment for the development of new positions and reinforcement of the existing ones in the vicinity of Styła settlement were observed (coordinates 47°42'12,67"N 37°48'07,11"E).

Slide 20, On the 31st of January 2021, the engineering works on development of new positions and reinforcement of existing ones in the area of Donetsk airport (coordinates 48°04'45,41"N 37°43'45,57"E and 48°04'21,69"N 37°43'16,83"E), as well as near the settlement of Betmanovo (coordinates 48°11'31,04"N 37°53'39,45"E) were observed.

Ukrainian side considers such actions of the Russian armed formations as a blatant violation of the Minsk agreements and disregard of the TCG ceasefire arrangement of 22 July 2020, as well as deliberate steps to destabilize the situation in the temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation areas in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and adjacent territories and further instigation by Russia of the conflict it started.

Notwithstanding the challenging circumstances, Ukraine has been proactively restoring the civilian infrastructure either destroyed or damaged as a result of Russia's armed aggression in the conflict-affected areas under the Government control, with the SMM observing adherence to the localised ceasefires. We are grateful to the Mission for its dedicated and restless work on this track.

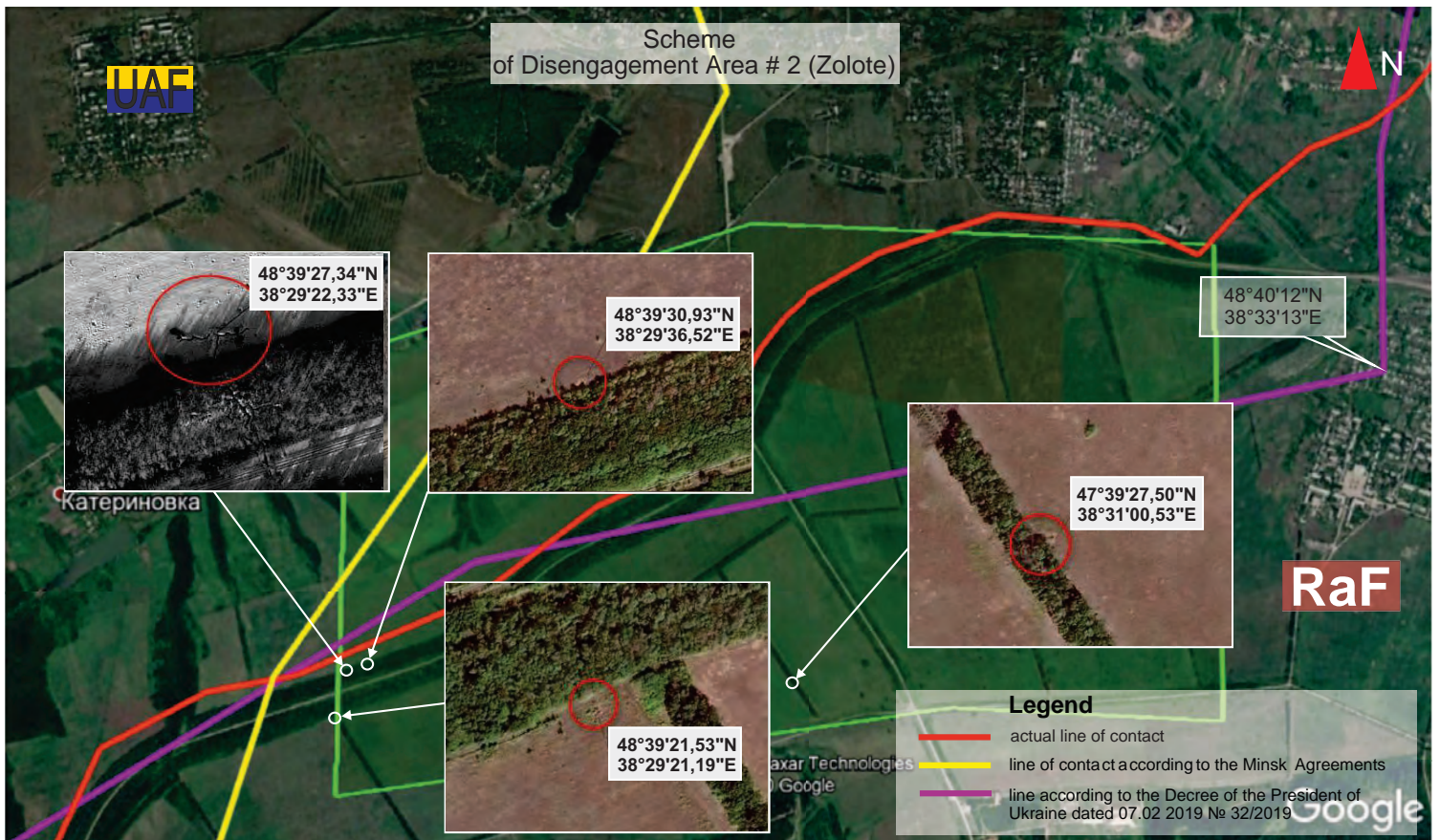
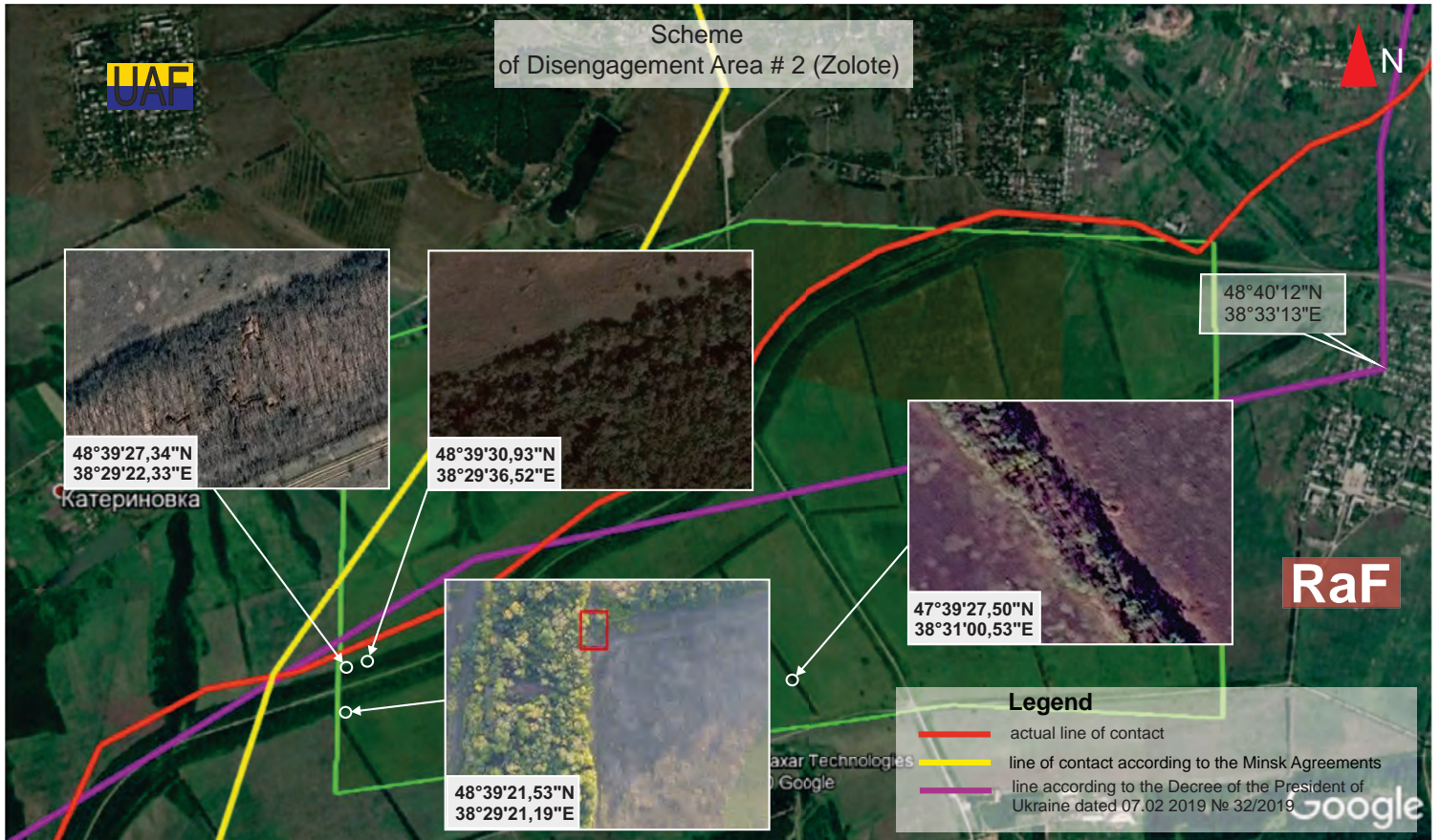
Ukrainian side continued demining activities. From the 23rd through the 29th of January 2021, the Ukrainian teams surveyed almost 29 hectares of land and destroyed 713 explosive devices.

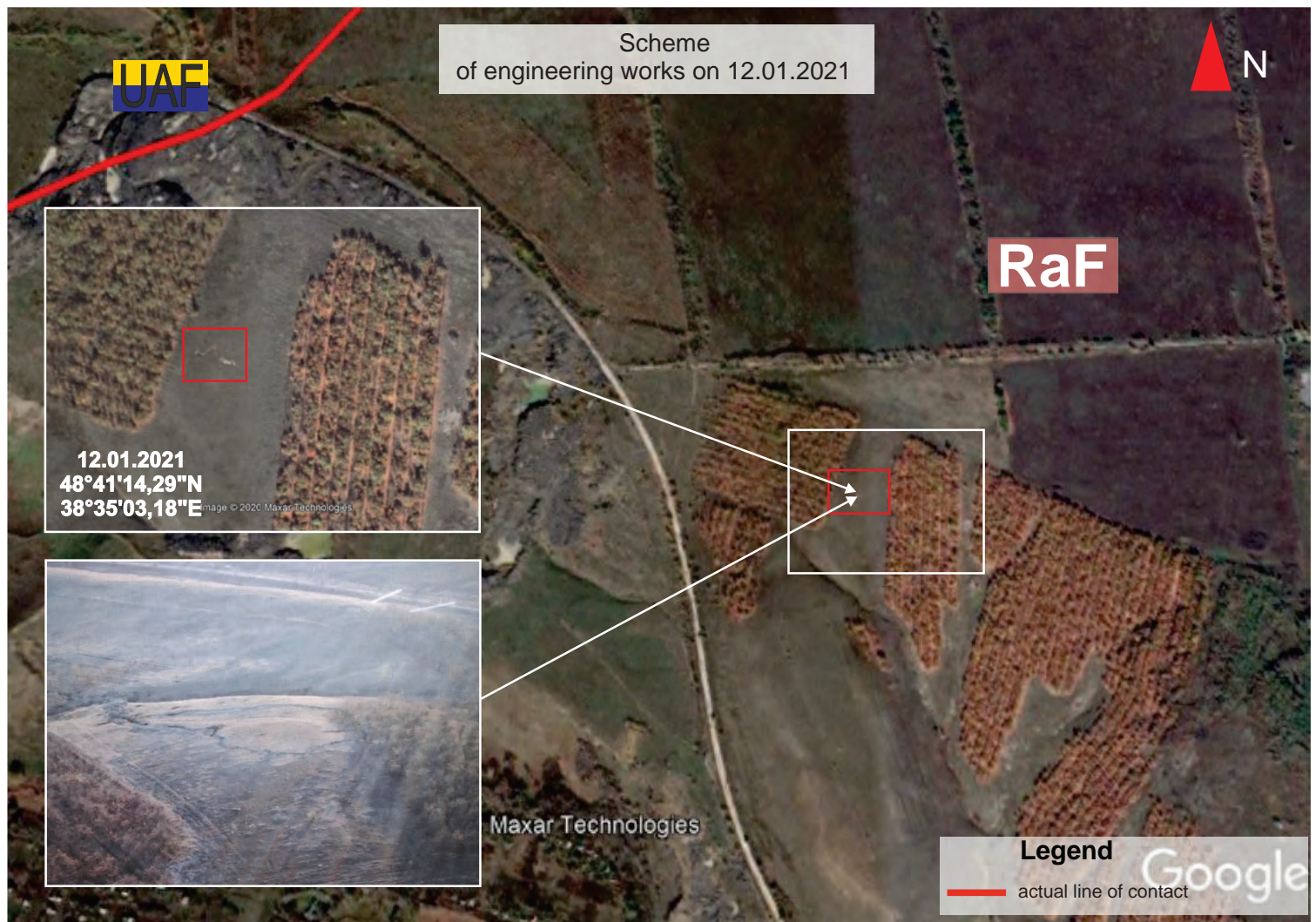
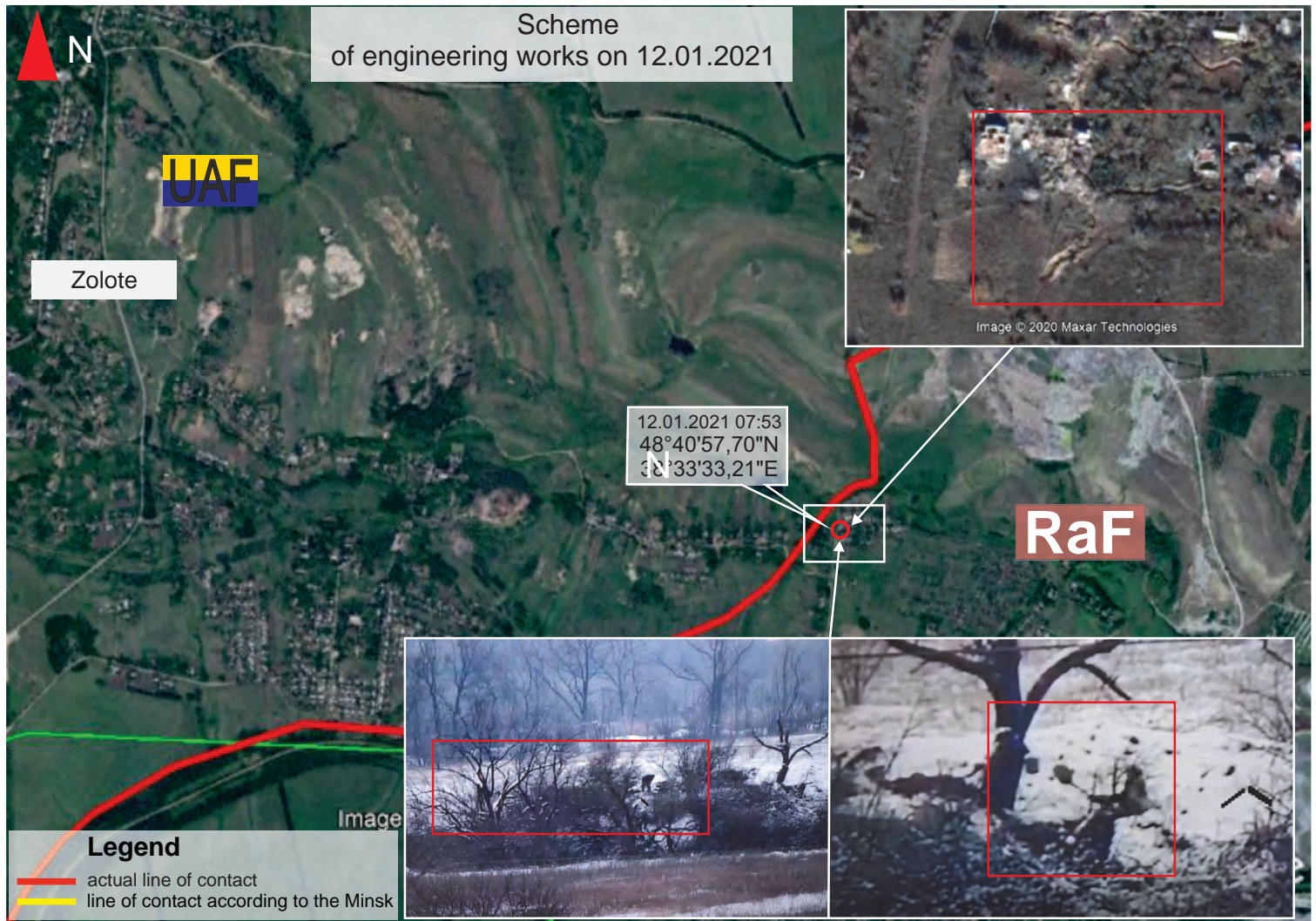
Meanwhile, the Russian armed formations continued blocking the humanitarian routes at the entry-exit checkpoints in the temporarily occupied areas of Schastia, Zolote, Hnutove, Mayorske and Mariinka. We call upon Russia to ensure free passage of the residents forced to leave under its occupation to the Government-controlled areas.

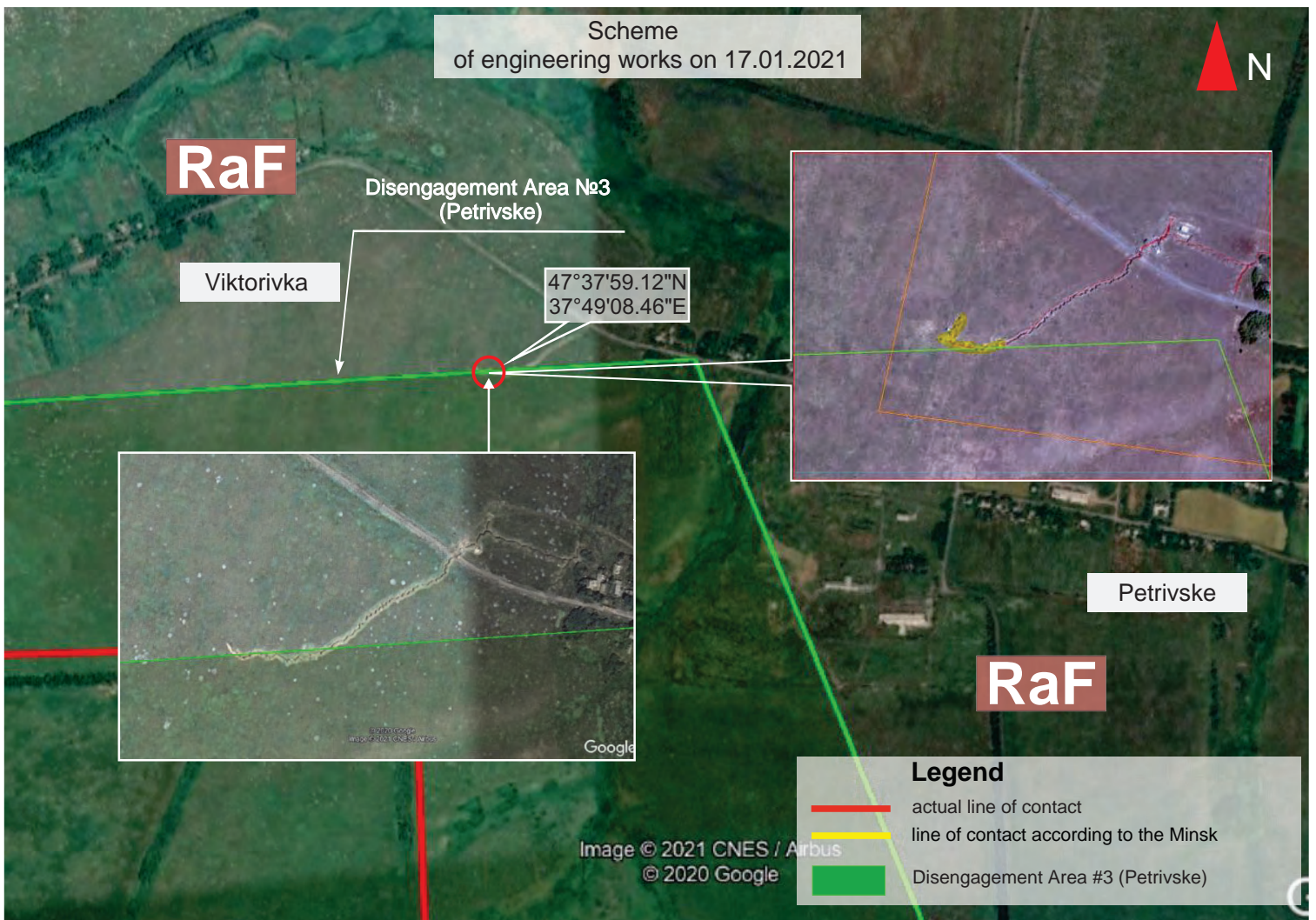
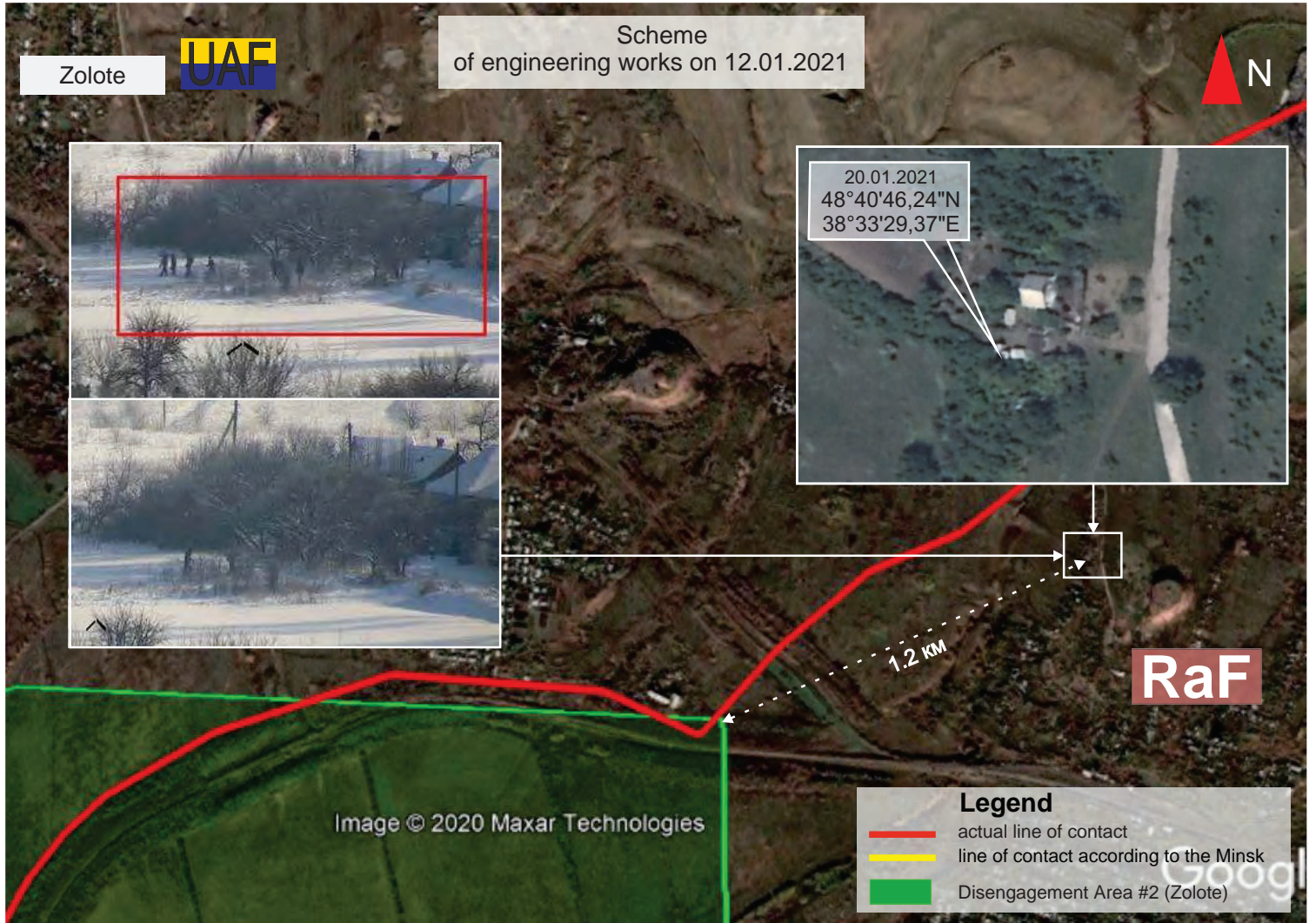
In conclusion, we once again urge the Russian Federation to stop its aggression against Ukraine, reverse its illegal occupation of Crimea, de-occupy parts of Donbas, and restore freedom of navigation in the Black Sea, through the Kerch Strait and in the Sea of Azov. Russia must fully implement its commitments under the Minsk agreements, including withdrawal of its forces, illegal armed formations and weapons from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.









Scheme of engineering works on 17.01.2021



UAF

RaF

Viktorivka

Bohdanivka

Петровское

47°36'59.43"N
37°49'59.95"E

Heat sources

Legend

- actual line of contact
- line of contact according to the Minsk
- Disengagement Area #3 (Petrivske)

Image © 2021 Maxar Technologies
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Google

Scheme of engineering works on 12.01.2021



UAF

RaF

12.01.2021 09:13
48°41'12,31"N
38°35'54,68"E

Holubivske

1 KM

Legend

- actual line of contact
- line of contact according to the Minsk



